

12 SEP 1950

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Ffestiniog Urban District Council

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

YEAR 1949

BLAENAU FFESTINIOG :

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

J. W. MORRIS, L.R.C.P. & S. (Ed).

Sanitary Inspector :

ERNEST JONES, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., (Until August 1949).

CYRIL PARRY, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., (Appointed November 1949)

Surveyor and Engineer :

BASIL G. JONES, M.R.S.I., A.I.A.S.

Health Committee :

Chairman : COUNCILLOR R. J. PUGH.

COUNCILLOR R. D. WILLIAMS.

THE HEALTH COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Clerk of the Council :

H. EVANS JONES, LL.B.

Chief Financial Officer :

D. O. JONES, A.R.C.A.

To the FFESTINIOG URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. JONES, GENTLEMEN.

I have the honour of presenting the following report for the year ended 31st December, 1949

I wish to express my appreciation of the excellent work done by the late Dr. J. W. MORRIS, whose sudden death is regretted by all who were privileged to know him.

It is due to records compiled by him, that it has been possible for me to prepare this report.

I cannot conclude without acknowledging the work and co-operation of the Public Health Staff, and the Medical Officer's Secretary.

W. PRITCHARD, M.B., CH.B.

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1950.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	16,323
Population R.G'S estimate mid annual 1949	..	..	..	..	..	7211
Number of inhabited houses	..	..	..	..	..	2421
Rateable Value 1/4/49	..	..	..	..	..	£23,356
Sum represented by a penny rate 1948/49	..	..	..	..	..	£86 6 7

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births :

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	63	51	117
Illegitimate	1	3	4
Total	64	57	121

Birth Rate—16.78. England and Wales—16.7.

Still Births :

	M.	F.
Legitimate	—	1
Illegitimate	—	1
Total	—	2

Deaths :

M.	F.	Total.
70	65	135

Death rate per 1,000 population=18.7. England and Wales=11.7
(Comparative factor 0.91).

Maternal Mortality :

All Causes—Nil.

Infantile Mortality :

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	1	3	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	1	3	4

Infantile Mortality : Rate per 1,000 Related Live Births 33.06. England and Wales 32.0.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The chief industries of the district are slate and granite quarrying, which are extremely strenuous occupations.

A large percentage of quarry men work underground, some down to 700 feet, and the remainder work in mills on the surface, where there is a great deal of dust created in sawing and dressing the slate.

Slate quarrying in the district is responsible for the prevalence of Pulmonary diseases and Rheumatism.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

ONE PART-TIME MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

ONE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Laboratory Facilities.

The examination of swabs etc is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Conway.

Ambulance Facilities.

- (a) **Infectious Cases.** There is no Isolation Hospital in the County at present. Cases are sent to Caernarvon Fever Hospital.
- (b) **Non-Infectious and Accident Cases.** A Motor Ambulance Car is available at the Memorial Hospital.
- (c) **Maternity Patients.** Conveyed in the Hospital Motor Ambulance when necessary.

Nursing in the Home.

The Ffestiniog Nursing Association employ Three State Registered Nurse who are also qualified Midwives. One of these Nurses is in charge of Ffestiniog Village.

No Nurse is available for infectious diseases.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The Child Welfare Centre is held fortnightly at the Bowydd Chapel Vestry (in the centre of the town) at 2 p.m. The accommodation is all that could be desired.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Cases.

Held weekly at the Clinic, Wynne's Road, by Mr. O. V. Jones.

Orthopaedic Clinics.

Held fortnightly at the Women's Institute. The clinic is visited regularly by the Orthopaedic Surgeon.

School Clinics.

The County Medical Officer of Health arranged these clinics, and I should like to express my appreciation of the thorough and efficient manner in which this work was carried out during 1949.

Tuberculosis Clinics.

This work is carried out under the administration of The Mid-Wales Hospital Management Committee.

The Chest Physician attends the Clinic at Wynne Road, on Friday of each week at 11 a.m.

The Clinic has an excellent X-Ray plant and is valuable for ALL CHEST conditions whether tubercle or not.

I desire to express my appreciation of the excellent work done by Dr. Jackson and Dr. Pick at the Memorial Clinics.

Treatment Clinic of Venereal Diseases.

This Clinic is held at the Hospital on Mondays 4—6 p.m. for Male and Female Patients. Dr. Vernon Williams is the Specialist in Charge.

Hospitals.

There is one Hospital in the district. The Ffestiniog and District Memorial Hospital—situated in the centre of the Town—overlooking Cwmbowydd Valley.

It is a Cottage Hospital for General and Medical Cases. It has 19 beds, and is available for persons residing in the following parishes—Dolwyddelen, Penmachno, Ffestiniog, Maentwrog, Trawsfynydd, Llanfrothen, Penrhyn-deudraeth, Talsarnau, Harlech, Llanfair and Llanbedr.

The Hospital is very well equipped for any major operation and possesses an operating Theatre. An X-Ray plant has been installed with all the latest electro-medical equipment.

A Physiotherapy Department has been established by the Hospital and is held at Towyn Road.

All forms of Physical and Electrical treatment are available.

Open Monday to Friday : 9-30 a.m.—5-30 p.m.

The Hospital is doing splendid work.

(Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1949,

				Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	..	..	..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	..	..	..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Enteric Fever (including Para- typhoid)	..	..	..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	..	..	..	2	2	2
Other diseases, generally notifiable :						
Ophthalmia	..	..	..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Polio myelitis	..	..	..	1	1	Nil
Measles	..	..	..	14	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	6	6	2
Erysipelas	..	..	..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other diseases notifiable locally	..			Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	..	..	..	22	8	4

Tuberculosis

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1949

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non—Respiratory		Respiratory		Non—Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
— ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5— ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10— ..	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
15— ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
20— ..	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25— ..	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
35— ..	1	2	1	—	1	1	1	—
45— ..	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
55— ..	4	1	—	—	3	—	—	—
65 and up-wards ..	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	14	6	1	1	7	3	1	—

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Disease :	Male	Females	Total
Whooping Cough	1	1	2
Tuberculous Respiratory System	7	4	11
Other forms Tuberculosis	2	1	3
Syphilitic Diseases	1	—	1
Influenza	10	5	15
Cancer of Buc:Cav: and Oesoph (m)	1	1	2
Cancer of Uterus (F)			
Cancer of Uterus (F)			
Cancer of Somach and Duodenum	4	3	7
Cancer of all other sites	5	3	8
Diabetes	2	2	4
Intra Carnial Vascular Lesidns	6	10	16
Heart Diseases	17	16	33
Other dist. of circ. system	—	8	8
Bronchitis	7	4	11
Pneumonia	2	—	2
Other Resp. Disorders	1	1	2
Appendicitis	1	—	1
Nephritis	—	1	1
Con: Mal: Birth M. J.: Infant Dis:	—	1	1
Road Traffic Accident	—	—	—
Other Violent Causes	1	—	1
All other causes	2	4	6
Totals	70	65	135

The rate of non-notified deaths to total tuberculosis deaths—Nil.

The notifications of Tuberculosis is satisfactory in the area.

No action was taken in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

Fibroid phthisis is prevalent among Quarrymen, and slate dust predisposes the Quarryment to Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

The unhealthy conditions prevailing underground in some of the Quarries render the men more liable to tuberculosis infection.

Since the Clinic (King Edward VII Memorial Association) was opened a few years ago, it has proved that Silicosis is prevalent among Slate Quarrymen, more especially among underground workers.

Since 1940 the Silicosis Act has been extended to include on its Schedule—Slate Mining—so as to cover all workmen employed underground at the Ffestiniog Quarries.

Cancer.

No special facilities are available for the diagnosis and treatment of Cancer.

Ten men and Seven women died of Cancer during the year.

Prevention of Blindness.

No action was taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons from any disease or injury to the eyes.

GENERAL.

22 cases of Infectious diseases (apart from Tuberculosis) were notified during the year.

No cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year.

No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year.

Six cases of Whooping Cough were notified during the year. 2 deaths.

The examination of swabs for Diphtheria is being carried out by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Brynhyfryd, Conway. This laboratory also undertake the examination of Pathological and Bacteriological specimens and water analysis. It is doing excellent work.

There is no hospital accommodation for Measles and Whooping Cough in the area.

No primary or re-vaccination were performed by the M.O.H. under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

There were no cases of locally contracted Anthrax or Rabies reported.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

No action was found necessary during 1949.

Sanitary Circumstances

Public Health Act, 1936.

(a) Statutory Notices served.....	7
Informal Notices served.....	35
No of houses rendered fit.....	20
No of water closets repaired.....	35
Drainage Repairs and Improvements.....	38
Accumulations removed after notice.....	2
Abatement of Nuisance caused by animals.....	1
Smoke Nuisances.....	Nil
Offensive Trades.....	Nil
Houses Disinfected.....	17
Houses Disinfested.....	1
Common Lodgings.....	Nil
Tents Vans and Sheds.....	Nil

(b) Refuse Removal.

Refuse removal is carried out weekly by direct labour with a staff of driver and two loaders, using a Karrier Bantam, side loading vehicle, except in the Llan, and part of Manod districts where the work is carried out under contract, with horse and cart transport, owing to the inaccessability of properties in those areas to motor vehicles.

There are 3 tips in the area, which are treated against flies and other insects, and controlled to the best possible extent, having regard to the impossibility of obtaining soil in the area for use as top dressing.

(d) Night Soil

Three collections of night soil are made weekly, ensuing removal of at least once per week from premises served by pail closets. The collection is carried out between the hours of 11 p.m. and 1-30 a.m., and the pails are suitably disinfected after each emptying.

(e) Sewerage

During the year sewers were maintained and repaired where necessary. No extensions of the system were carried out, and parts of the area are still unsewered. All outfall works are scheduled for modernisation, and are subject to reports on a draft scheme by the Council's Consulting Engineers.

HOUSING.

No formal action was taken during the year under the Housing Acts 1936/49.

It is estimated that 220 houses should be erected to provide for re-housing from proposed Clearance Areas and Individual Unfit Houses, and to abate overcrowding.

3 Council Houses were completed and let on the Fron Fawr site, completing the original scheme. Lay out plans have been completed for the filling of gaps on other sites, namely Tynymaes (2 houses); Manod (8 houses) and Benar Road (2 houses).

The Glasdo and Glasfryn sites are not being proceeded with at present.

All sites and lay-outs plans have been approved by the Welsh Board of Health and the Town and County Planning Committee.

New Buildings, Extensions and Improvements.

89 plans were submitted for approval during the year, and 11 miscellaneous applications also received consent.

Building Licences.

20 Building Licences were issued during the year authorizing and expenditure of £5,644 on repairs to various properties.

19 licences were also issued by the Ministry of Works (£4,924).

WATER SUPPLY.

The district, except for some farm houses, and a few isolated houses, is supplied with a constant and sufficient supply of water from Morwynion Lake.

Bacteriological Examinations of the main water supply have shown it to be satisfactory, being Ministry of Health Classification 1.

Chemical Analyses carried out by the Public Analyst show that it has no temporary hardness but a slight trace of permanent hardness. It has somewhat a corrosive and solvent action on bright lead and other metals.

The P.H. value of the raw water is 6.6 and the Analyst's recommendation is that the distributed supply be brought up to a P.H. value of 7.5

The water supply of the area is satisfactory in quality and sufficient in quantity, but waste is exceptionally high and needs drastic attention.

The source is a natural mountain lake and the catchment area is relatively free from dangers of human pollution.

The water is screened; treated with lime, and Alumina; filtered through high pressure mechanical filters; being finally chlorinated before distribution, and has a Residual Chlorine of .04 P.P.M, half an hour after contact, and with a Nil Residual in the town.

20 samples of water were taken during the year. 13 were reported to be satisfactory and 7 unsatisfactory due to some slight temporary pollution. 12 Samples of raw water—before treatment, were taken for records only.

Samples are bacteriologically examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Conway. 4 Samples were taken from private sources, all of which were unsatisfactory.

Rainfall 1949.

Taken 9 a.m. daily. 1 foot above ground.

Funnel diameter=5 inches.

1. Morwynion Lake (1320 ft. above sea level).

MONTH	Total Depth	Greatest fall in 24 hours.		Number of Days with	
				.01 or more	.04 or more
	Inches	Inches	Date		
January	5.0	1.85	6	22	20
February	4.23	1.20	22	18	16
March	3.94	1.60	14	14	13
April	8.50	.64	3	19	15
May	5.81	.41	27	17	14
June	1.36	1.46	3	10	8
July	3.16	1.52	26	12	7
August	5.94	1.73	1	14	11
September	2.55	1.47	22	7	6
October	13.48	.95	19	22	18
November	10.53	.75	4	27	25
December	14.62	.20	2	23	20
Total	79.12			205	173

2. Manod (713 ft. above sea level).

January	8.57	2.02	6	24	22
February	5.71	1.45	22	21	20
March	6.39	.94	11	16	13
April	10.02	2.06	5	26	17
May	6.23	1.99	27	19	15
June	1.72	.51	3	11	7
July	4.79	1.82	30	17	11
August	7.29	2.05	1	17	13
September	2.71	1.66	22	10	8
October	11.24	1.45	25	20	19
November	9.81	1.43	4	27	26
December	16.43	2.05	2	24	21
Total	90.91			232	192

FOOD.**Meat :**

78 visits were made to the Slaughter house during 8 months of the year, and the following animals were inspected.

121 Cattle ; 788 Sheep ; 8 Calves ; 2 Pigs.

× During the time the office of Sanitary Inspector was vacant, slaughtering supervision, and inspection was carried out by Mr. E. Edwards, the Ministry of Food Representative, and it is due to records kept by him that it has been possible to complete the following table :—

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Pigs	Total Animals
Number killed	355	14	3550	4	3923
Number Inspected	121 234	8 6	788 2672	2 2	919 3004
All Diseases except Tuberculosis :					
Whole Carcases con.	3	—	7	—	10
Carcases of which some part or organ was cond.	127	—	145	—	272
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	36.6%	Nil	4.28%	Nil	7.18%
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcases condemd.	1	—	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	21	—	—	1	22
Percentage of Number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	6.2%	Nil	Nil	25%	.058%
Total weights cond. in lbs.	565	539	—	20	6209

2 Licences to Slaughter Animals were renewed during 1949.

Meat from the centre is supplied to the population of Ffestiniog Urban Area, Maentwrog, Roman Bridge, Trawsfynydd, Penmachno, Dolwyddelan and part of Betws-y-Coed.

Of the 11 Butchers Shops in the Urban District, 6 are registered for the manufacture of cooked meats and sausages.

Other Foods :

In addition to the 22 catering establishments, there are 13 Fish Frying Shops. Although structural improvements are required in some premises, the provisions of Section 13 of the Foods and Drugs Act 1938, are observed in most cases.

Ice-Cream :

Six premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, two of which have their own heat-treatment plants. Samples taken during the year gave the following results.

Provisional Grade	No of samples	Remarks	9
1	4	Very Satisfactory	
2	1	Satisfactory	
3	—	—	
4	1	Unsatisfactory.	

A total of 98 visits were made to food premises in the area, including the 11 Bakehouses, and during the year the following foodstuffs were voluntary surrendered and condemned as unfit for human consumption.

	No of Tins	lbs.
Corned Beef	46	106½
Frozen Meat	—	165
Black Pudding	—	64
Sausages	2	2
Bacon	—	12
Meat Loaf	—	40½
Stewed Steak	2	2
Wet Fish	—	156
Tinned Fish	66	38½
Tomato and Tomato Juice	32	59½
Soups	193	159½
Peas	30	36
Beans	5	4½
Carrots	18	15½
Pickles	78	56¾
Sauces	252 bottles	126
Milk	228	180
Dried Egg	1 pkt.	½
Cereals (various)	154 pkts.	104¾
Fruit	36	55
Fruit (dried and fresh)	—	165
Jam	15	25
Total weight condemned		<u>1574½ lbs.</u>

Milk Supply.

With the introduction of the Food and Drugs Act 1944, the administration of the 51 Dairy farms in the area was transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Up to the 1st October, 1949, the appointed day of Transfer of Functions, 55 visits had been made to farms, and 49 samples of milk taken, in addition to 306 samples taken by Officials of the Milk Advisory Scheme working in the area. Under the Food and Drugs Act 1944 the following certificates of registration have been issued.

Distributors of Milk	..	..	..	15
Retailers of Tuberculin Tested Milk	..	..	..	6
Retailers of Accredited Milk	..	..	..	1
Dairies, not being Dairy Farms	..	..	..	6

Clean Food Campaign.

It is pleasing to note that no cases of food poisoning occurred during the year. Much improvement in standards has been accomplished by personal interviews with management and staff of restaurant kitchens, and other food premises.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938.

The following table, kindly supplied by Mr. R. Edwards, Chief Food and Drugs Inspector, Merionethshire County Council, gives particulars of samples taken in the Ffestiniog Urban District during 1949.

ARTICLE	NO TAKEN	RESULT OF ANALYSIS	OBSERVATIONS
Milk	12	8 Genuine 4 not Gen.	1 below for Solids— not-fat (no added water 2 Deficient in fat (7%) *1 Deficient in fat (32%)
Milk (appeal to Cow)	1	Genuine	
Toffee	1	Genuine	
Fish Cakes	1	Genuine	
Cheese flour Mixture	1	Genuine	
Dessert Mould	1	Genuine	
Caraway Seed	1	Genuine	
Sausages	1	Genuine	
Custard Powder	1	Genuine	
Gelantine (unsweetened)	1	Genuine	
Lemonade Powder	1	Genuine	

*—Legal Proceedings instituted. Defendant fined

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

PART 1 of the ACT.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspect- ions (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	28	60	3	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	29	26	2	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2			
Total	59	86	5	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To HM Inspector (4)	By HM Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temp. (S.3)t	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation- (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of of floors (S.6)	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conv'ces (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	1	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out- work)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	5	5	—	1	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

There are no outworkers in this area.

RODENT CONTROL.

The services of the INFESTATION OFFICER are shared with the Deudraeth R.D.C.

A total of 83 private cases were dealt with during the year, and all sewers were given two full treatments.

169 dead rat bodies were recovered during the period.

Excluding manhole inspection and treatments approximately 1,245 visits were made during the year.

Refuse tips were regularly prebaited and treated where necessary, and somewhat satisfactory results were obtained.



